

# The Brooklyn Paper

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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

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## Hallowiener!

This little tyke got into the All Hallows Eve spirit a bit early this week—but that's how it is in Park Slope, where the annual Halloween parade is the best in the city. See GO Brooklyn for complete coverage of the ghoulish, ghostly action. **The fun starts on page 7.**

# GIN-GO AWAY!

## Stinky conifer gives geezer reason for tree-son

By Ben Muegg

The Brooklyn Paper

He's mad as hell—and he's not going to rake it any more!

Bay Ridge resident Richard Mahany is so angry that the city won't chop down a stinky ginkgo tree that dumps its foul-smelling fruit on the sidewalk in front of his 78th Street home that he has stopped cleaning up its odorous droppings in protest.

"The tree is a menace," said Mahany, who at 74, is about the same age as the arbor that towers over his home. "If the city can refuse to remove the tree, then I can refuse to clean up the mess—it's a city tree!"

Mahany moved into the home near the corner of Fifth Avenue more than 40 years ago and has diligently raked the putrid ginkgo nuts into the street, clearing a pathway so passersby aren't forced to step on the notoriously pungent droppings.

But after a quintuple bypass surgery and treatment for an aortic aneurysm, he says he just doesn't have the energy to clean up the mess—which coats his sidewalk

almost every night in the fall and winter and produces an ominous odor that wafts all the way to Fifth Avenue.

"When I clean it up, I ruin my shoes and smell like vomit afterwards," said Mahany, who also blames the tree for uprooting a section of his sidewalk. "The neighbors will have to live with the stink and mess."

Other than telling him to hold his nose, the city has done little to help Mahany in his fight against the awful-smelling tree.

Parks Department spokesman Phil Abramson told The Brooklyn Paper that the city stopped planting female ginkgo trees—male ginkgos don't smell—after realizing they were a "nuisance," but the agency has no policy to help homeowners who've ended up with the grotesque germination.

"We don't really have the resources to clean up the fruit," said Abramson, who noted that a ginkgo clean-up is a homeowner's responsibility, much like raking leaves.

And chopping down the tree isn't an option because it's healthy.



**THIS STINKS:** Richard Mahany, who lives on 78th Street, is sick of the smell of his city-planted ginkgo.

Though some neighbors sympathize with Mahany's fight, not everyone hates the smelly tree. And that's part of the problem.

In recent years, Mahany has spotted Brooklynites removing the ginkgo seeds—which are popular in Chinese soups—from their shells. They squish the fruit and take the seed and leave the pulp in the garden and on the sidewalk, making the mess even worse," he said.

Foodies aren't the borough's only ginkgo lovers. Botanists adore the arbores— which are among the world's oldest varieties of trees—for their beauty.

Mark Fisher of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden said he marvels at the ginkgo tree for its "interesting foliage" and because "it grows so well in the city."

Mahany agrees that it's a beautiful tree—he just doesn't want the ginkgo in front of his home any longer.

"Don't get me wrong, I love trees. I'm willing to pay for another tree. I just don't have the energy to keep cleaning this up."

# BUSTING LOOSE

## Report: Real-estate woes may be over

By Will Yakowicz

The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn real-estate bust is showing signs of bottoming out.

Sales figures in the third quarter of this year across Brownstone Brooklyn showed a 34-percent average increase in the number of properties sold and a 10.5-percent increase in average sales price—an indication that the worst may be over.

"We are springing back," said Jonathan Miller, who wrote the Oct. 14 market review for the Prudential Douglas Elliman real-estate firm. Miller's analysis revealed:

- The number of sales were up 20.2 percent in Williamsburg and Greenpoint, and prices were up 4.7 percent.

- Bay Ridge scored a 25.3-percent increase in sales, with a 1.2-percent price increase.

- And Brownstone Brooklyn—specifically Boerum Hill, Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, Clinton Hill, Cobble Hill, Downtown, Fort Greene, Gowanus, Red Hook, Park Slope and Prospect Heights—saw a slam dunk with a 69.4-percent increase in the number of sales and a 10.7-percent increase in prices.

And in those areas, prices for brownstone buildings themselves were up nearly 35 percent from the second quarter of the year.

Miller said the third-quarter uptick showed that the real-estate market has begun to pick up, following trends in the larger economy. As a result, "pent-up demand" has been unleashed,



A new report suggests that housing prices in Brownstone Brooklyn are on the rise!

getting fence-sitters back into the market.

But the end of the real-estate crisis is still out of reach, thanks to larger, long-term issues like rampant unemployment rate and the credit crunch, which hits Brooklyn particularly hard because housing prices tend to be higher and big mortgages are hard to get right now.

"[The uptick] does not infer the bottom, but we have definitely experienced the worst of the pain," Miller told The Brooklyn Paper. "We are not out of the woods, but Brooklyn took a breather."

Some brokers think Miller is too optimistic. Jean Austin's Brooklyn Bridge Realty, for example, has only closed six condos and one house in the last two months, fewer than half the number of sales before the crash.

"It's still nowhere near where it was," she said.

And prices are still lower than the peak. Miller's review revealed that the third quarter average sale price in The Brooklyn Paper coverage area is \$564,801, up 10.5 percent from the previous quarter. But, the price is still down 5.8 percent from \$599,761 in the third quarter of 2008.

But the numbers do show that Brooklyn's real-estate is playing catch-up from last year's black-hole, 57-percent drop.

Even though the bust is not completely beaten, now is the time to buy because prices will certainly go up over the next three years, said Dottie Herman, CEO of Prudential Douglas Elliman.

"People who didn't buy are going to be sorry," Herman said.



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# CLOCK TEASE

## Walentas's \$25M dream

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

In the midst of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, DUMBO development titan David Walentas has put on the market the borough's most-expensive apartment.

All it takes is \$25 million and a dream (and finding a bank to give you a mortgage).

Then again, what good is a fiscal depression if you can't indulge in escapist fantasy? And this 7,000-square-foot penthouse is certainly a pie in the sky: sprawling over three floors, the living space extends outwards to include a wraparound terrace with views of Manhattan so perfect that you might even be willing to spend...

See **CLOCK** on page 13

# Facing Brad, two foes can't Lander a punch

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

The two minor-party candidates battling Democratic nominee Brad Lander in his race to succeed Councilman Bill DeBlasio and represent a liberal swath of Brownstone Brooklyn hit the front-runner with their best shots last Friday, but Lander emerged unscathed.

Though he had nothing to gain and everything to lose, Lander patiently sat through attacks from Green Party candidate David Pechefsky and Republican nominee Joe Nardello at a debate held in our offices as all three sought The Brooklyn Paper's endorsement.

The debate is worth watching on BrooklynPaper.com, if only for these revelations:

- Nardello is the only candidate opposed to gay marriage—not that he said it outright.

- "I have an open mind," he said, when asked if homosexuals should be allowed to marry. "There's nothing I would want better for friends of mine to be able to live in love the way they want to and have the same civil rights as we do. But we have a bill right now in the state that will be debated, and I will be watching that. We have to reflect the values of our community, which is very diverse and fragmented on this issue."

Pechefsky and Lander said they were both for gay marriage. Lander called it a "fundamental civil right."

• Pechefsky's main issue is the Council's "member item" system, under which lawmakers get to do out money to local organizations with very little oversight.

"It's like playing Santa Claus," he said, challenging Lander's commitment to reform.

For his part, Lander said that any group receiving member item money from him would have to account exactly how it spent the money.

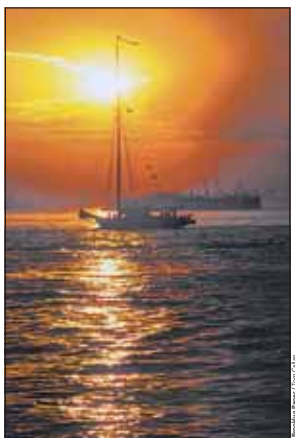
Nardello claimed that Lander's endorsement by the Working Families Party would lead to a "payoff" for the party if he's elected.

"The Working Families Party See **POLS** on page 5



Candidates hoping to succeed Bill DeBlasio in the City Council are from left) Republican Joe Nardello, Green Party candidate David Pechefsky and Democrat Brad Lander.

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# October sunset

Our photographer caught the last glimmer of sunlight—and, indeed, the last throes of summer—from the pier behind the Red Hook Fairway on Wednesday afternoon.

# ON HEALTHCARE

## McMahon too conservative for Bay Ridge!

While the rest of the country brought out torches, pitchforks—and in some cases, handguns—this summer to protest "socialized medicine," Bay Ridge residents stormed Tuesday's town hall meeting on health care to demand that their Democratic congressman be more liberal on the issue.

Now this grizzled insider has been going to town hall meetings since they were actually held in town halls, but even I was shocked by the vast majority of Rep. Mike McMahon's constituents—who live in the borough's Republican belt—backing President Obama's plan, or even more liberal proposals.

More than 100 people crowded the Shore Hill Community Room on Tuesday for a shockingly civil two-hour discussion that put most community boards—and all co-



op boards—to shame for behavior and decorum. Dozens of constituents urged the freshman congressman to support the current bill, which he does not, many pushed for See **HEALTH** on page 13



Rep. Mike McMahon.

# THE STAKES ARE HIGH THE CHOICE IS CLEAR VOTE NOVEMBER 3

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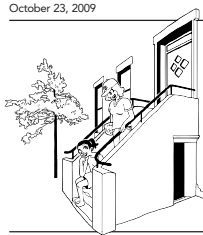


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# THE STOOP

## NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

### GREENPOINT



The feds have given you more time to weigh in on whether the Newtown Creek should become a federal Superfund site.

## Velazquez supports Superfund

By Will Yakowicz  
The Brooklyn Paper

One day after the federal government gave residents 30 more days to complain about the Newtown Creek, the fed waterway's congressman revealed last Friday that he supports designating the creek as a toxic Superfund site.

In doing so, Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-Sunset Park) linked the creek with the Gowanus Canal, its just-as-resolutive sister sludge that is nearing the end of the public comment period that is expected to result in Superfund designation by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Securing a healthy environment is the single most important factor in choosing a course of action for cleaning both the Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek," Velazquez said in a statement. "Superfund designation will thoroughly remove hazards and transform these waterways into a source of pride for our community."

"The Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek have threatened the health of New Yorkers for long enough," she added.

Velazquez's input followed the EPA's decision to extend to Dec. 21 the public comment period over the creek, which separates Brooklyn from Queens, another borough. Superfund designation begins a process that allows the EPA to hold polluters responsible for funding a cleanup of the sludge stream.

The process of designating the Gowanus Canal, begun earlier this year, has been fairly controversial, as the city is hoping to spur residential development in the area and on the banks. Mayor Bloomberg has proposed his own clean-up plan in hopes of avoiding the "stigma" of Superfund designation.

Councilman David Vassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) is afraid that such a stigma will carry over to Newtown Creek, too.

"The Superfund is not a fund, there is no money and it can become an awful 25-year process of the federal government suing the pants off everybody," said Vassky's chief of staff Tim Roberts, who said that his boss is waiting for the mayor to make the first move before he makes his decision.

"Whether we support it or not depends on the alternative," Roberts said. "If the city has a viable option that only takes 10 years, then we'll choose that. The stigma with the Superfund is bad, and we have to do something about this disgusting mess now."

Their paths to a clean future may diverge, but the Newtown Creek shares a few traits with the Gowanus Canal. Both are swirling with rainbows of oil and raw sewage. And both have a very long list of potentially liable polluters.

Every year, 2.7 billion gallons of raw sewage spill into the creek, and nearly a 30-million-gallon oil spill, attributed to decades-old leaks from oil refineries, still seeps into the waterway. The spill is three times the size of the Exxon Valdez disaster.

Samples of the creek taken in Sept. 2009 revealed the presence of "pesticides, metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, and volatile organic compounds which are potentially harmful" and "can easily evaporate into the air."

The Bloomberg administration has yet to offer an opinion about Superfund designation for Newtown Creek. A mayoral spokesman said that the administration would weigh in during the public comment period.

To tell the EPA what you think, visit [www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/pubcom.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/pubcom.htm), call [1-800-442-6644](tel:1800442664) or e-mail him at [acosta.jl@epa.gov](mailto:acosta.jl@epa.gov). To find out more about the Superfund process, visit [www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/npl\\_hrs.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/npl_hrs.htm).

### CARROLL GARDENS

## Council eyes downzone

By Will Yakowicz  
The Brooklyn Paper

A three-year fight against "out of scale" buildings in Carroll Gardens is heading towards victory on Monday, as the City Council is expected to approve a down-zoning that would cap building heights in most of the picturesque neighborhood.

Monday's Council hearing and expected vote is the culmination of the Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association's push to down-zone 86 blocks so that new buildings can not exceed 50 feet on side streets and 70 on main routes.

Such a height restriction, supporters say, will protect a neighborhood of lush front gardens and low-rise baltic brownstones from tall, bulky, modern condos.

"There is a definite fear that there will be an erosion of the historic character of our neighborhood," said Glenn Kelly, co-chairman of association's Land Use Committee.



Anna Gallo (right with Third Street neighbors Grace Sallustio and Fiore Scarfoni) opposes an expansion of the Carroll Gardens Historic District.

The rezoning has not been controversial — but a percolating effort to widen the tiny Carroll Gardens Historic District could be.

The existing historic zone is one of the smallest in the city, covering only the area bounded by President, Carroll, Smith and Hoyt streets. Some property owners are resistant to expanding the zone because such landmark districts make it tougher for homeowners to alter their properties with additions, facade changes or even paint jobs.

"Landmarking is back door to city [control over] our own historic buildings," said Anna Constantino, who owns a building on Third Place. "Why would I want to have people tell me how to live in my house?"

Kelly, who has lived in a landmark building in Carroll Gardens' historical district for 24 years, said that he feels comforted with the regulations.

"With landmarks, I know my neighbor won't do something stupid like paint the building pink," said Kelly.

### BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

## Gunmen running wild

By Will Yakowicz  
The Brooklyn Paper

A pair of heavily armed men is running wild in and around Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO, robbing at least three in a six-day blitz last week.

Police said the first crime was on Oct. 12, when two perps toted a semi-automatic weapon mugged a man who was walking to the F-train station on York and Jay streets in DUMBO at around 2:50 p.m.

The crooks, one wearing a ski mask and neckerchief, put the gun to the 22-year-old victim's chest and stole his cellphone and digital camera.

Three days later, a gun-toting team got another cellphone and a wallet from a man on Henry Street near Ardenmore Street at around 11:20 p.m.

And two days after that, two men mugged a man at gunpoint on Bridge Street near Prospect Street — though all they got was two measly dollars in the noon crime.

### BAY RIDGE

## Congrats on new berth!

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

Bay Ridge's 69th Street pier is on its way to becoming a boating destination and transit hub, thanks to a \$300,000 plan to outfit the fishing wharf with a dock. The city will acquire a floating dock and rig it to the pier, welcoming kayakers, boaters, and, perhaps, ferry service.

"This barge is going to give residents waterfront access for kayaking, boating and more," said Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge).

"Eventually, the 'Eco Dock' will be a local hub for ferry service, helping commuters get to and from work in Manhattan," added the councilman, whose earlier dock dreams were shattered last year when the city decided to install a second dock at the 58th Street pier in Sunset Park before bringing a ferry landing to the 69th Street pier in Bay Ridge.

The "Eco Dock," which will be 40-feet long by 30-feet wide, will be moored to the harbor floor on stanchions, but will rise and fall with the tides.



A rendering of the "eco dock" showed it in a designated non-Bay Ridge setting.

Activists who have pushed for increased waterborne transit in Bay Ridge are looking forward to the installation of a new landing.

"This is a sign of progress," said Heather McCown of the Sunset Ridge Waterfront Alliance. "When they rebuild the pier, they really cut us off in terms of ferry service or water access. This is a sign we're finally going to utilize the pier the way it used to be utilized."

The Eco Dock is the first step to realizing McCown's longtime dream — an aquatic alternative to Bay Ridge's sluggish R train.

"I've can get a ferry reinstated, it's going to be great for commuters, the local businesses, and the property values in Bay Ridge," said McCown.

Though the planned dock will be able to accommodate ferries, searail service has not yet been organized. In the past, New York Water Taxi — which operates a route between Lower Manhattan and the 58th Street pier — has expressed an interest in servicing the 69th Street pier.

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## PECHEFSKY FOR CITY COUNCIL

### WHAT CAN THE COUNCIL DO ABOUT ATLANTIC YARDS?

The council could have stopped the Ratner plan by refusing to vote for a budget that included \$200 million for the project.

The Council can still use its budget power to shape development of the Atlantic Yards area.

Though he claims to be against Ratner's project, Democratic nominee Brad Lander has not put forth any concrete proposal to derail it.

I guarantee that I will not vote to fund a project that includes an arena and is completely out of scale for that Brooklyn neighborhood.

**David Pechesky**  
Green Party Candidate for City Council District 39  
[pecheskyforcitycouncil.com](http://pecheskyforcitycouncil.com)

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## PECHEFSKY FOR CITY COUNCIL

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**WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$884,839?**

That's how much the current District 39 Council Member, Bill de Blasio, got through the city's budget process this year to allocate to groups without competitive bidding.

- Which groups got this money?
- Did some neighborhoods in the district get more of this money than others?
- How did de Blasio decide which groups to designate for funding?

With some work we can answer the first two questions—read my blog at davidpechfsky.blogspot.com.

As for the third question, who knows?

This is because under the current system, Council Members get to be little Santa Claus delivering goodies as they see fit.

If elected, I will convene a community advisory panel to help me decide how to use any discretionary funds that have access to. I will post the groups and projects that receive money on a website along with updates about what they actually did with the money.

What kind of process would Brad Lander have? Or does he want to play Santa Claus, too?

**David Pechfsky**  
Green Party Candidate for City Council District 39

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# Cops take jerk off G

## 76TH PRECINCT

**Carroll Gardens**  
**Cobble Hill-Red Hook**

Police nabbed a 28-year-old suspected of masturbating on the G train on Oct. 9. Responding to aroused calls from commuters, cops handled the perp at around 10:30 am at the Smith-Ninth Street station after spotting him "naked with an erect penis out on public view," according to police reports.

The suspect was slapped with public lewdness.

**Double booking**  
Cops nabbed a 34-year-old suspect twice in as many days for carrying a contraband knife.

Officer Alex Bakalis locked up the suspect after spotting him carrying a gravity knife—a kind of retractable blade illegal in the city—near the corner of Douglass and Bond streets.

At about 4 am, cops spotted the same perp driving erratically and failing to signal. When they pulled him over, the perp's speech was slurred, his coordination compromised, and he couldn't provide a license or registration.

Officers attempted to lock him up for drunk driving, but the suspect punched, kicked, and flailed his arms in an attempt to resist arrest.

Only after cuffing him did they realize he was carrying another gravity knife.

Cops charged the suspect with a litany of charges including criminal possession of a weapon, resisting arrest, and driving under the influence.

**Not a lucky day**  
Cops locked up a 14-year-old suspected of heisting \$1,000 of scratch-off lottery tickets from a Court Street bodega on Oct. 9.

The perp snatched the Lotto tickets from Magic Fountain—a variety store between First and Second

places—between 4:47 pm and 5:35 pm. But cops quickly cuffed their suspect.

**Mean streets**  
Police nabbed a 36-year-old suspected of stealing a bike and striking its owner in the face on Oct. 10.

The thief gashed the two-wheeler at the intersection of the sidewalk on Cheever Place between Kane and Daguerre streets—at around 2:42 pm, while the 22-year-old victim entered his home to find a bike lock.

The victim returned outside and spotted the thief snatching his bike. When he tried to intervene, the crook put his hand on the victim's face and pushed him away, causing "redness and pain," according to a police source.

But cops canvassed the neighborhood and located the thief at around 2:10 am after the pair knocked into each other at the corner of Second and Bond streets.

**Bag snagged**  
A thief snatched an untended purse from a chair in front of a Third Place residence on Oct. 12.

The perp grabbed the Coach bag—which contained IDs, reading glasses, a Pentax digital camera, and \$500—at around 3:15 pm, when the victim stepped into her home and left her bag outside.

—Ben Muessey

## 88TH PRECINCT

**Fort Greene-Clinton Hill**

**Murder Avenue**  
A murder suspect a man multiple times in his Vanderbilt Street home, just off Myrtle Avenue, on Oct. 18.

Cops found the victim lying face up at the back of his apartment and rushed to the hospital at around 7:30 pm, but it was too late. Doctors said he'd died about an hour earlier.

It was the third murder recorded in the confines of the 88th Precinct this year—an area that suffered 19 such crimes as recently as 1990.

**Pick paradise**  
The victim immediately went to one of the stores, a 7-11 at the corner of Ninth Street, and was informed by a witness that two men had just been there.

When the victim went back to the diner, the two men were there. He called cops, who quickly moved in and collared the slow-moving perps.

The credit cards were recovered.

**Light wheels**  
Only two vehicles were reported stolen in Park Slope last week—a minor miracle in a neighborhood known for car theft.

A 14-year-old motorcycle thief was nabbed on Oct. 10 and 10 am on Oct. 11, when his owner returned to the spot between Fourth and Fifth avenues to find it gone.

A Pennsylvania man with a vanity plate had his fancy Pontiac convertible stolen off Sixth Avenue on Oct. 16. He told cops that he left the car, with the license plate AN-GELO2, near Fourth Avenue, at 7:30 am and sought to use it at 3:30 pm.

—Sabrina Jassi

## POLICE BLOTTER

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stole a fancy cellphone and left. Cops tracked the smart-phone to the corner of Seventh Avenue and Lincoln Place, but the perp finally turned off the device.

The thief gashed the two-wheeler at the intersection of the sidewalk on Cheever Place between Kane and Daguerre streets—at around 2:42 pm, while the 22-year-old victim entered his home to find a bike lock.

The victim returned outside and spotted the thief snatching his bike. When he tried to intervene, the crook put his hand on the victim's face and pushed him away, causing "redness and pain," according to a police source.

But cops canvassed the neighborhood and located the thief at around 2:10 am after the pair knocked into each other at the corner of Second and Bond streets.

**Bond St blade**  
A bad guy with a blade slashed a 26-year-old after bumping into him on the sidewalk on Oct. 10.

The crook cut the victim in his stomach and left arm at around 2:10 am after the pair knocked into each other at the corner of Second and Bond streets.

**Pool brawl**  
A woman was roughed up in a fight at the Ocean 11 pool hall on Flatbush Avenue on Oct. 13, but she was too drunk to give police a good account of what happened.

The woman did tell cops that she got into an argument with a man with dreadlocks at around 2 am inside the late-night bachelorette party, which is near Seventh Avenue.

And swelling around her face indicated that the dispute became physical at some point.

But beyond that, who knows? The victim was intoxicated and uncooperative, the police report said.

**Daisy chain**  
A man whose wallet was stolen while he was dining at Daisy's Diner on Fifth Avenue on Oct. 16 ended up helping cops nab the two perps later in the evening.

The fun started at around 2 am, when the 34-year-old diner diner was contacted by his credit card company and told that someone had just rung up more than \$300 in charges at two nearby stores.

The victim immediately went to one of the stores, a 7-11 at the corner of Ninth Street, and was informed by a witness that two men had just been there.

When the victim went back to the diner, the two men were there. He called cops, who quickly moved in and collared the slow-moving perps.

The credit cards were recovered.

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—Sabrina Jassi

## 84TH PRECINCT

**Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO**  
**Boerum Hill-Downtown**

**Subway tumble**  
Two perps pushed a victim down the stairs at the Borough Hall subway station and mugged him at gunpoint early on Sept. 28.

The victim told cops he was heading towards the train at around 3 am when someone pushed him down the stairs and onto the platform.

The identity of the assailant became immediately known because he and an accomplice pushed a silver firearm between the victim's eyes and raided his pockets.

The pushy thugs made off with the 26-year-old's cellphone, wallet and credit cards.

**Subway tumble**  
Two perps snatched the cellphone out of a man's hands as he rode the 4 train to Borough Hall on Oct. 14.

The 35-year-old victim was aboard the New Lots Avenue-bound train at around 6:30 pm when a thug grabbed the BlackBerry out of his hand while an accomplice pounded the man about the head.

The doors opened, and all three rolled onto the platform, where the perps gained control, secured their phone and fled.

**Gold snatched!**  
Someone snatched gold jewelry from a woman's Jay Street apartment over the summer.

The victim did not report the crime until Sept. 9—telling police that she had forgotten where she stashed her treasure.

side of the face.

She fell to ground, and the man took \$400 from her bag before fleeing down Manhattan Avenue.

**Rocked**  
An aggressor bonked a man on the head with a rock on Oct. 17.

The middle-aged victim told cops that he was on Driggs Avenue near N. Sixth Street at around 11:30 pm when the perp, whose face he didn't see, approached and struck the top of his head with the heavy rock.

The attacker ran, but the dazed strike didn't see which way.

**Shower snatch**  
A thief stole an aunt-to-be at a Graham Avenue baby shower on Oct. 16.

The victim was celebrating the imminent birth of her niece at The Lady of the Snow Society at around 8 pm when she placed her purse on a table while she went to snip a picture.

Later, she realized her cash and credit card were gone.

**Cash 4 clunkers**  
Car thieves were rolling all over the hood this week:

• A thief stole an expensive 2001 Saab in broad daylight on Oct. 12. The victim told cops that he parked his auto on Wythe Avenue near N. Third Street shortly before noon. He returned six hours later to find that the criminal had done his work.

• Another wanted man stole a 2001 Saab in broad daylight on Oct. 12. The victim told cops that he parked his auto on Wythe Avenue near N. Third Street shortly before noon. He returned six hours later to find that the criminal had done his work.

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—Thomas Tracy

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# A 'clause' for concern

## Is Ratner off the hook on affordable housing?

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

State development officials are drafting a new deal with Bruce Ratner that will give the Atlantic Yards developer a loophole out of the project's main selling point: thousands of units of affordable housing.

New language quietly inserted into a Sept. 17 lease proposal between the Empire State Development Corporation and the Downtown-based developer now make the construction of the long-promised 2,250 units of below-market-rate housing "subject to governmental authorities making available ... affordable housing subsidies."

None of the prior agreements — including two approved general project plans — made the affordable housing conditional on any state or local support. Ratner was required to build the units whether subsidies were available or not.

And such subsidies are in very short supply. Last year, before the worst of the recession even hit, local experts were sounding the alarm about a coming shortage of affordable-housing money. At the time, there weren't even enough bonds to meet existing demand.

"It's highly unlikely Forest City Ratner will be able to get the amount of subsidies that it needs for the affordable housing," said Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights). Prior agreements between the state and Ratner did refer to taxpayer subsidies in the latest project plan approved in June, for example, said that "the affordable units are expected to be built as part of the mayor's 'New Housing Marketplace Plan' and financed through tax-exempt bonds provided under existing and proposed city and state housing programs" — but the subtle change in language from "expected"

### THE YARDS DOCKET

It's getting hard to tell all the cases against Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards development without a scorecard, thanks to two more lawsuits filed in consecutive weeks this month by opponents of the mega-development. So we figured it was about time for our first-ever "Atlantic Yards Docket Update" for all four pending cases:

CASE	PLAINTIFFS	CLAIM	STATUS
"The eminent domain case"	Nine land-owners and tenants inside the Atlantic Yards footprint.	Argues that the state is wrongly using its condemnation power with a false claim that the Atlantic Yards project confers a large public benefit.	Shot down by lower courts and the U.S. Supreme Court, but was heard by New York State's highest court on Oct. 14. Ruling expected in November.
"The community lawsuit"	Twenty-six neighborhood groups, including Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn and the Sierra Club.	Argues that the environmental review was a sham and that some blocks inside the project footprint are not blighted.	Filed in April, 2007, but shot down by both lower courts. Plaintiffs are hoping that the Court of Appeals takes the case.
"The sweetheart deal" case	Four local politicians, plus DODD and the Straphangers Coalition.	Argues that the new June, 2009 deal between the MTA and Ratner violated state law because no other bidders were solicited.	Filed on Oct. 13 in the state's lowest court.
"The new case"	Twenty community groups, including DODD.	Argues that the June renegotiation broke the law because it lets Ratner off the hook on his affordable housing pledge.	Filed on Oct. 19 in the state's lowest court.

to "subject to" not only had critics howling this week, but also rushing off to court.

"ESDC has quietly made the 'affordable' housing conditional upon public subsidies, in contradiction with [the project's] approval document," said Candace Carponter, a lawyer who advises the main opposition group, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, which is one of the parties on this week's lawsuit (see chart).

Carponter expressed a certain irony that Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn is

in the position of "holding Ratner accountable" on affordable housing considering that the project's main booster, ACORN, signed onto a Community Benefits Agreement with Ratner specifically because of the affordable housing component.

If anyone should be upset about the change in language, it should be Bertha Lewis, ACORN's chief organizer, Carponter suggested.

But under the agreement, ACORN and Lewis are contractually barred from say-

ing anything negative about the project, and, as such, both maintained their optimism this week.

"We are, of course, disappointed by the delays brought about by endless litigation, [but] we remain confident that, at the end of the day, Atlantic Yards will mean thousands of new units of affordable rent-regulated housing and new home ownership opportunities for working families," Lewis said in a statement.

A spokesman for the ESDC questioned Carponter

and her legal team's reading of the new development agreement.

"The referenced language does not absolve the developer's obligation to develop affordable housing," said ESDC spokesman Warner Johnston.

"It has always been envisioned that there will be affordable housing subsidies. If housing subsidies are not made available ... then the developer will be permitted additional time to develop the housing."

"Upon completion of the project, there will be no less than 2,250 units of affordable housing and the project documents will mandate that," Johnston added. Johnston said that the entire project — all 16 skyscrapers, the basketball arena, eight acres of publicly accessible open space, thousands of units of housing, office space and retail stores spanning from Fifth Avenue in Park Slope to Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights — would be completed by 2019.

That date seems impossible, especially in light of a June agreement between Ratner and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that allows the developer to buy the development rights from the transit agency over the 22 years, or until 2031.

That extended timetable was also challenged in court this week by opponents.

"As a Land Use Improvement Project under [state law], ESDC [must show] that it has a plan to alleviate blight," said DODD lawyer Jeff Baker.

"But they only considered a plan completing in 2019, when they know it won't be completed until at least 2031."

"If the project [takes that long], might there be a more effective blight removal plan?" Baker asked. "Will it have the same economic and social benefits if it goes that long? ESDC will fully stick its head in the sand regarding the new Ratner deal with the MTA [which] guarantees that the project, contrary to the legal requirement to remove alleged 'blight,' will exacerbate the 'blight' and make it permanent."



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WHERE CAN TECHNOLOGY TAKE YOU?

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Haunted Halloween Carnival coming up on Oct. 31

The Fourth Annual Haunted Halloween Carnival of Pupperty Arts will be held Saturday Oct. 31, from 11 am-4 pm at the First Street Recreation Center of PS 372 between Fourth and Third avenues.

The Haunted Halloween Carnival is a reasonably priced, safe and stroller-friendly resource for families looking for a Halloween event. Pupperty Arts Executive Director Tim Young said that activities will include monster mashing with WFLI, cookie decorating sponsored by Gourmet Croissants, puppet and mask crafts, make-your-own silk-screened T-shirts with Daydream Silkscreen, and cool refreshment from Fuzze Beverages.

"There will be a Bounce House by Send in the Clowns, NY Fire Safety booth, and Pupperty Arts' popular Haunted House," he added. "A costume contest will be held at the end of the event sponsored by Wham-O toys. The first 200 kids get a free trick-or-treat bag filled with tons of goodies from Park Slope Fifth Avenue BID, the NBA Store, Interpdy, and Cadbury Candy."

The Haunted Halloween Carnival raises funds so Pupperty Arts can provide programming at area hospitals, shelters, and foster care facilities.

For info visit [www.puppertyarts.org](http://www.puppertyarts.org) or call (718) 768-3703.

#### Seniors urged to take some precautions this flu season

Senior Helpers advises family caretakers to prepare for the flu season with increased urgency in order to decrease hospitalizations and deaths in the elderly population.

The Centers for Disease Control reports an average of 200,000 people are hospitalized and 36,000 die from the flu each year in the United States. Due to weakened immune systems, seniors over 65 years of age constitute approximately 90 percent of those deaths and more than half of the hospitalizations.

Senior Helpers, a leading in-home care, is taking action and delivering "prevention packages" to each of the seniors for which they provide care. Each package will include items to decrease the spread of germs, and tips on how to prevent the flu.

Ask your primary care doctor about the traditional flu vaccine and the availability of the vaccination for Influenza A.

If you are aware of a senior who is having difficulty managing household tasks, planning for a healthy diet and/or is unable to identify flu symptoms, a home care agency should be contacted for assistance. Senior Helpers connects professional caregivers with seniors to provide care in the home. While the company has over 260 offices nationwide, Glen Galka and team are proud to serve the New York City area and offer a wide range of companion care services to assist seniors living independently in all five boroughs.

Senior Helpers (353 W. 48th St. in Manhattan, 646) 214-2086. For info, visit [www.seniorhelpers.com](http://www.seniorhelpers.com).

### POLS

Continued from page 1  
will expect their piece of pie," he said. "Where's the payoff? Where is the quid pro quo, because you know there is going to be one?"

Lander answered directly. "I'll tell you where it is: strong support of the paid sick days bill," he said.

"The Working Families Party's big campaign is to make sure that every New Yorker who works can get a paid sick day. Hundreds of thousands of low-wage workers don't have it. I'm proud to support that legislation."

Nardello was not satisfied.

"It's at the core of who is a politician and who isn't," he said. "I can fight just as hard for anything he said, especially minimum wage."

Oh, but not on the sick-day bill, he admitted.

"Actually, I don't support that," he said. "You can't force small businesses to do that kind of thing in the middle of the recession."

•Pechesky spent most of his allotted time questioning Lander on whether he would cast his first Council vote — for the next speaker — for someone who had voted for the extension of term limits.

"Is that a threshold issue for you, as it is for me?" Pechesky asked, beginning one of the debate's testier moments. Lander refused to answer the question, saying it's too early to know who he'll vote for as speaker because "we don't know who the candidates are."

Election Day is Nov. 3.



Sunday, 11/08/09 1:00-4:00 pm

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

October 23, 2009



# Siren song

*Slope's Halloween parade is better than Manhattan's!*

By Sabrina Jasti  
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Greenwich Village Halloween parade and Park Slope's Halloween parade may celebrate the same holiday, but they march to the beat of very different drummers.

As Park Slope neighborhood parents dress their kids in tiny hand-sewn Chrysler building costumes and taxicabs made out of refrigerator boxes, participants in the Village celebration are donning other garb.

"The last time I went to the Village parade I saw a flying nun pull up her habit to reveal a giant phallos," attested hometown Halloween hero George Shea, a Park Sloper whose hand-made, 14-foot pirate vessel, the Ship of the Black Spot, has become a new tradition at the 23-year-old Seventh Avenue march.

For family guru and organizer Susan Fox, the Middle American hominess of the Park Slope parade is just more her speed.

"Our parade is more quaint and less adult. It's a sweeter parade," said Fox, who also runs the Park Slope Parents Web site.

"There's no influence from people who have been drinking since Happy Hour."

She's right about the Manhattan affair's reputation for disorderly conduct—in past years there have been hundreds of public drinking arrests. Back in Park Slope, the worst-case scenario is a temper tantrum,

## EVENT

**The Park Slope Children's Halloween Parade** begins at 6:30 p.m. at Seventh Avenue and 14th Street, turns left at Third Street and continues to Fifth Avenue. For info, visit [www.parkslopepccouncil.org](http://www.parkslopepccouncil.org).

a tummy ache or a missed bedtime.

Still, despite the Park Slope spook fest's obvious advantages, Jeanne Flemming, 30-year artistic/producing director of the Village Halloween parade, said she has yet to attend.

"I hear [theirs] is growing, but as long as the Village Parade is happening, the Park Slope parade will probably remain a local event," sniffed Flemming.

Relations between the two Halloween destinations have been tense since Park Slope figuratively egged the Village affair in 1986.

"If you think the Village parade is special, wait until you see what the Civic Council has planned for Park Slope on Halloween Eve," reported the Civic News, antagonistically, in September of that fateful year.

A lot has changed since then, but Park Slope parade organizers are more zealous than ever. With a West Indian percussion band and a "Spooky Seas" theme to include a 20-foot-tall mermaid puppet, Fox says that this year's march will be like the Crown Heights West Indian Day Parade



Dress up: Susan Fox of Park Slope Parents leads the annual Halloween Parade. That's not a costume, by the way.

provement this year, as the parade will include a Fifth Avenue leg, and will end with musical festivities at the Old Stone House in J.J. Byrne Park. Better still: You'll be in bed by 9:30 p.m. Can the Greenwich Village parade say that?

And there's a big All Hallows' Eve im-

streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710; [themsiespot.com](http://themsiespot.com).

7 p.m. Silent film "Phantom of the Opera" with live organ accompaniment. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (85 S. Oxford St., at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene).

7:30 p.m. King Khan and BBQ Show Halloween party. \$18. The Bell House (149 Seventh St., at Third Avenue, (718) 643-6510).

8 p.m. Tim Fick's Halloween Party. \$12. Union Hall (702 Union St., at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400; [www.unionhall.com](http://www.unionhall.com)).

8 p.m. Late-night party dubbed, "The Annihilation of Oz." Features performances by the Vendettas, Toys in Trouble and Dragons of Zyrith, plus free beer from 8-9 p.m. \$20. Warsaw (261 Driggs Ave., at Eckford Street, (718) 387-0505). Visit [www.thegreatesthalloweenpartyever.com](http://www.thegreatesthalloweenpartyever.com).

11 p.m. Late-night Halloween party with the Junior Boys and Woodwinds. \$18. The Bell House (149 Seventh St., at Third Avenue, (718) 643-6510).

## Other Halloween treats

**All day:** "Boo at the Zoo." Creatively costumed characters, craft-making, and haunted habitats will make this a frighteningly fun weekend. Prospect Park Zoo (650 Flatbush Ave., between Eastern Parkway and Empire Boulevard in Prospect Park, (718) 399-7339; [www.prospectparkzoo.com](http://www.prospectparkzoo.com)).

**10 a.m.** Annual Halloween Parade. Bring your little ghouls and goblins to join in the fun and show off their best costumes. Pierrepont Play-round (Pierrepont Place between Pierrepont and Montague streets in Brooklyn Heights).

**11 a.m.-4 p.m.** Annual Puppetry Arts carnival. Free. PS 372 (First Street between Third and Fourth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3703; [www.puppetryarts.org](http://www.puppetryarts.org)).

**11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.** "The Legend of Ichabod Crane." Liberally adapted from the Washington Irving story and performed by Dan Krossner.

**510.** Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave., at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816; [www.brooklynlyceum.com](http://www.brooklynlyceum.com)).

**11:30 a.m.** Dog costume contest. \$5 donation. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center (Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 723-3218).

**Noon-3 p.m.** Pizza party. Games, music, story-telling, treats and, of course, pizza! \$10. Caserta Vecchia Restaurant (221 Smith St. in Carroll Gardens, (718) 624-7549).

**1 p.m.** District Dog Halloween parade. McCollin Park (Driggs Avenue at Monitor Street in Greenpoint).

**2 p.m.** Halloween walk and fair. State Sen. Marty Golden's annual event features face-painting, a pumpkin patch, and the inevitable pony rides. Free. Owl's Head Park (67th Street at Colonial

Road in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-6044).

**4 p.m.** "Spooky salon" featuring comedians Andrea Rosen and Leo Allen. Free. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

**4-7 p.m.** BAMovie event with candy giveaways and other fun-filled activities for kids. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave., near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100; [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org)).

**8 p.m.** Halloween party. Stop by during your trick-or-treating. Joseph Mayrose Garden (Prospect Avenue between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, (718) 528-5225).

**6:30 p.m.** Halloween monster mash. Post-trick-or-treating hangout and dancing. Moose Spot (81 Atlantic Ave., between Hicks and Henry

## BOOKS

### Comic con

For one weekend in November, Brooklyn will become the center of the comic universe.

At KingCon—Nov. 7 and 8 at the Brooklyn Lyceum—legends like "American Splendor" author Harvey Pekar, "Mad" magazine's Al Jaffee, and ubiquitous creator Mort Todd and Cliff Chiang will appear before hordes of fanboys and girls.

Local talent, like Brian Wood and Tim Hamilton (whose comic version of "Fahrenheit 451" is pictured), will also have its moment at the folding tables. So will animator Peter Levin and renowned writer and graphic novelist, Jonathan "Bored to Death" Ames.

All-told the massive event will include 60 or more artists participating in panels and autograph sessions.

"We're expecting 6,000 attendees, though there could be as many as 10,000," said Regan Jaye Fishman, who is organizing the two-day free-for-all.

KingCon at the Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave., at Union Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816) Nov. 7-8. Tickets are \$7 for one day or \$10 for the weekend. For info, visit [www.kingconbrooklyn.com](http://www.kingconbrooklyn.com). —Sabrina Jasti

## SHOPPING

### Signed up

First, he let you wear your neighborhood on your sleeve. Now, he's helping you bond with your favorite subway stop.

Michael de Zayas—who founded the Neighborhoods brand of customizable clothing a few years back—is now hawkking that ultimate form of New York patriotism: dead-on replicas of subway signs.

This isn't merely about the subway, but about a person's essential New Yorkness—like Woody Allen's character in "Annie Hall" who hangs a subway sign over his bed.

"Each sign is customized with a station stop or with any phrase you like, so it will have an emotional resonance for the person who owns it," said de Zayas, who runs Underground Signs with a partner, Trevor MacDermid.

See the signs at the Neighborhoods store (26 Jay Street in DUMBO, (718) 243-2265) or at [www.underground-signs.com](http://www.underground-signs.com). Prices range from \$125-\$400.

## BOOKS

### Death lives

Some things belong together: A rock show at the Bell House, an opera at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and, of course, morbidly depressing thoughts at Green-Wood Cemetery.

So we're all in luck that death-obsessed author Alix Strauss—whose new book about the suicides of 20 famous people has been called "Six and the City" meets "Six Feet Under"—will be reading at Brooklyn's best bone-yard on Oct. 25.

The book "Death Becomes Them: Uncurbing the Suicides of the Brilliant, the Famous, and the Notorious," captures the sad ends of famous self-slayers Virginia Woolf, Sid Vicious, Hunter Thompson, Kurt Cobain, Vincent van Gogh, and Spalding Gray. As such, the cemetery is "perfect," Strauss said.

The book is witty, but Strauss is no suicide groupie. Rather, her pages act as a final goodbye to talented artists, even as she decodes their suicide notes, dives into the methodology of the deaths, and explores our own fixation with the morbid and suicidal.

"Suicide is such a solitary act and so final," Strauss says she doesn't plan on taking her own life. That said, she does hope to die on her own terms.

"I'm not scheduling," she said, "but I'd love to be found naked surrounded by money."

Alix Strauss reads from "Death Becomes Them" at Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 768-7300).

—Will Yakowicz

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Meet Snaggy with Neil Liff, Sonya the Seagull of Brooklyn Caricatures

Party with 97.7 and the WFLA NY Liberty Party Patrols

First 200 kids get a FREE trick or treat bag stuffed with goodies

Meet the Star Wars Costume Volunteers from the 501st and Echo Base Legions

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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**FRIDAY**  
October 23



### Engaging with art

Tonight offers two chances to interact with art. First, at 3rd Ward's new Williamsburg gallery, graffiti artist Dick Chicken — the man behind the phallus-headed fowl — is expected at the opening of his show. Then, at midnight, head to the Lyceum for the "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

7 pm, Dick Chicken at 3rd Ward, 372 Metropolitan Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg. (718) 715-4961; midnight, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," 1022 Cortelyou Road. (718) 857-4816.

**SUNDAY**  
October 25

### Casing sausage

It doesn't take too much to make a perfect fall day: beer, brats and a waterfront park. Fortunately, all three will come together when Greenpoint celebrates Oktoberfest at Transmitter Park.

We'd get there early if we were you — cheap beer and bratwurst don't last all day.

Noon-8 pm, Greenpoint Oktoberfest at Transmitter Park (1 Greenpoint Ave. at West Street in Greenpoint). For info, visit [www.meandredproductions.com](http://www.meandredproductions.com).

**TUESDAY**  
October 27



### Tasters' choices

It's the granddaddy of all gorgefeasts: Brooklyn Eats. For more than a decade, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce has convened an all-you-can-eat extravaganza featuring samplings from some of the best restaurants in the borough. For one (not-so) low price, you get to graze from table to table like a free-range foodie.

6 pm, Brooklyn Eats at Seiner Studios (15 Washington Ave. in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, (718) 875-1000). Tickets, \$110 (advance), \$125 (door). For info, visit [www.brooklyn eats.com](http://www.brooklyn eats.com).

**FRIDAY**  
October 30

### Palooza day

It's rare that we get two events on the same day both calling themselves "a-palooza," but the day before Halloween tends to bring out the wackos. So start your night with the Tarot-a-Palooza, then head for Freddy's Backroom for the fourth annual Viadapalooza, featuring Box of Crayons (pictured) and Cock Lorge.

6-11 pm, Tarot-a-Palooza at Kris Waldherr Art and Words (1501 Newkirk Ave. at Melrose Road in Dimes Park, (347) 406-5811); 11 pm, Viadapalooza at Freddy's Backroom (485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035).

**SATURDAY**  
October 31



### Costume drama

We used to hate Halloween — until we moved to Park Slope and started going to the annual kids parade. And we didn't even like kids back then! But the sight of thousands of costumed ragamuffins parading up Seventh Avenue is the perfect mix of Middle American hokiness and New York creativity. And right there, front and center, will be our editor in a dress.

6:30 pm, Parade starts at Seventh Avenue and 14th Street and heads to Third Street before turning left and ending on Fifth Avenue. For info, call (917) 974-9740.

# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**FRI., OCT. 23**

**ART OPENING:** Daniel John Weiner's "No Parking Funeral Today." Free, 7 pm, 440 Fulton (440 South at Park Slope, (718) 499-3844). [www.wideworld.com](http://www.wideworld.com)

**ART OPENING:** Multi-media art and music show, "Heaven and Hell." Free, 7 pm, Williamsburg Music Center (367 Bedford Ave. at South Fifth Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-1654). [www.wmcc.org](http://www.wmcc.org)

**MUSIC:** MEREDITH MONK'S "SONGS OF ASCENSION." Featuring Meredith Monk and Vocal Ensemble and the Todd Reynolds String Quartet. \$20-\$50, 7:30 pm, BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111). [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org)

**EXHIBITION:** "BROOKLYN UTOPIA." Three-month exhibition on the search for a utopia in Brooklyn. 8 pm, Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Pierpoint St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111). [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org)

**THEATER:** "BAUHAUS THEATRE." Play about a 100-year-old architectural movement. 8 pm, Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 657-4816). [www.brooklynlyceum.com](http://www.brooklynlyceum.com)

**THEATER:** "TITUS ANDRONICUS." Retold version of Shakespeare's mini-classic. 8 pm, Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-4797). [www.brooklyntheatre.com](http://www.brooklyntheatre.com)

**CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT:** Featuring works by Prokofiev, Knipper and Dvořák. \$20, 8 pm, First Unitarian Church (Pierpoint Street between Clinton Street and Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858-0718). [www.brooklynchambermusic.org](http://www.brooklynchambermusic.org)

**PLANTS:** DAVID HOLZMAN'S "S.E. 8." Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083). [www.bargemusic.org](http://www.bargemusic.org)

**THEATER:** "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE." An opera based on Arthur Miller's classic play. 8 pm, Vertical Repertory Theater (219 Court St. at Cobble Hill, (800) 838-3004). [www.VRPT.org](http://www.VRPT.org)

**CLASSICAL CONCERT:** The Harlem Renaissance Orchestra, featuring Ron Allen conducting 18 musicians. \$20 donation, 8 pm and 10 pm, Jazz 1960 (566 Fulton St. at St. James Place in Clinton Hill, (718) 638-6910). [www.jazz1960.com](http://www.jazz1960.com)

**MUSIC:** M.U.G.A.B.E.E.: Mississippi-based artists perform jazz, hip hop and spoken word. \$20 (includes one drink), 8 pm, Inroads Center (85 Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233). [www.inroads.org](http://www.inroads.org)

**FILM:** MERCE CUNNINGHAM'S "SPLIT SIDES." Legendary choreographer caught on film. 5:30 pm, Spoke the Hub (148 Union St. in Park Slope, (718) 408-3234). [www.spokethehub.org](http://www.spokethehub.org)

**FILM:** "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW." The ultimate participatory classic. \$20, 11:59 pm, 1199 Avenue C (Avenue C at 11th St. in Bushwick, (718) 260-2500).



"Love" game: Bay Ridge Repertory Theater's production of "Lovers and Other Strangers" runs through Nov. 1.

pm, Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 657-4816). [www.brooklynlyceum.com](http://www.brooklynlyceum.com)

**SAT., OCT. 24**  
**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
BIKE IT: Transportation Alternatives leads a bike ride starting in Brooklyn and going through Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx. Free, 8:30 am, Grand Army Plaza (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 652-3101). [gallerplayers.com](http://gallerplayers.com)

**GRAND STREET COMMUNITY BAND:** Fall concert. 3 pm, Grand Street Campus HS (850 Grand St. in Williamsburg, (718) 236-0678)

**MUSIC:** MEREDITH MONK'S "SONGS OF ASCENSION." See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER:** "BAUHAUS THEATRE." Play about a 100-year-old architectural movement. 8 pm, Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 657-4816). [www.brooklynlyceum.com](http://www.brooklynlyceum.com)

**THEATER:** "TITUS ANDRONICUS." Retold version of Shakespeare's mini-classic. 8 pm, Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-4797). [www.brooklyntheatre.com](http://www.brooklyntheatre.com)

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**FILM:** MERCE CUNNINGHAM'S "SPLIT SIDES." Legendary choreographer caught on film. 5:30 pm, Spoke the Hub (148 Union St. in Park Slope, (718) 408-3234). [www.spokethehub.org](http://www.spokethehub.org)

**FILM:** "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW." The ultimate participatory classic. \$20, 11:59 pm, 1199 Avenue C (Avenue C at 11th St. in Bushwick, (718) 260-2500).

**CIVIC CALENDAR**  
**TUES., OCT. 27**  
Community Board 1 Land-use and Landmarks Committee. Monthly meeting, 6:30 pm, Capital One Bank (807 Manhattan Ave. at Calver Street in Greenpoint, (718) 389-0009). [www.cblbrooklyn.org](http://www.cblbrooklyn.org)

**78th Precinct Community Council.** Monthly meeting, 7:30 pm, 78th Precinct stationhouse (65 Sixth Ave. at Bergen Street in Prospect Heights, (718) 636-6410).

**WED., OCT. 28**  
Community Board 2 Youth and Cultural Affairs Committee. Monthly meeting, 7:30 pm, 78th Precinct stationhouse (65 Sixth Ave. at Bergen Street in Prospect Heights, (718) 636-6410).

**http://**  
Find lots more listings online at [BrooklynPaper.com/Events](http://BrooklynPaper.com/Events)

**THEATER:** "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE." An opera based on Arthur Miller's classic play. 8 pm, Vertical Repertory Theater (219 Court St. at Cobble Hill, (800) 838-3004). [www.VRPT.org](http://www.VRPT.org)

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**SALES AND MARKETS**  
PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free, 9 am-5 pm, 196 20th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Green-wood Heights, (347) 596-9040. [www.brooklynflea.com](http://www.brooklynflea.com)

**PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET:** Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 am-4 pm, Grand Army Plaza (Union Street at Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope, (212) 718-7900). [www.brooklynflea.com](http://www.brooklynflea.com)

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**THIEF SALE:** 10 am-3 pm, New Utrecht Reformed Church (18th Ave. at 84th St. in Bensonhurst, (718) 236-0678)

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** Free, 11 am-6 pm, 129 N. Sixth St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, [www.artistsandfleas.com](http://www.artistsandfleas.com)

**BROOKLYN HOMESHOW:** Diverse group of local artists and designers showcase their handmade goods. Free, 11 am-6 pm, 142 16th St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (310) 681-0663. [www.brooklynhomeshow.org](http://www.brooklynhomeshow.org)

**OTHER**  
**ART OPENING:** James Tasso's "The Life of Christ." 10 am, Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Street in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000). [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)

**MEGA ART SHOW:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**FOOD CONFORMANCE:** Guest speakers, workshops, and healthy foods provided by some of the best restaurants in Fort Greene. 1-6 pm, PS 67 (51 St. Edwards St. between Park and Myrtle avenues in Fort Greene, (718) 260-9191). [www.brooklynfoodconference.org](http://www.brooklynfoodconference.org)

**OCTOBERFEST PARTY:** Support Craft Ales releases its anticipated Oktoberfest beer — with a BBQ and live music. Free, 2-6 pm, Syracuse (1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Cortelyou and Westminister roads in Dimes Park, (347) 240-5850). [www.brooklynfoodconference.org](http://www.brooklynfoodconference.org)

**See 9 DAYS on page 10**



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# Prairie horndogs

'Sex' writers pen Texas-tinged soap opera

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

From "Sex and the City" to "Soap Opera on the Prairie," that's pretty much the back story behind "Cedar City Falls," a new weekly serial that will make the big jump from Manhattan to DUMBO's Galapagos Art Space next month.

The two-dozen-character soap opera was penned by four former "Sex and the City" writers, including Prospect Heights resident Julie Rottenberg and Brooklyn Heights' Eliza Zartsky — childhood friends whose partnership began long before they joined fellow "Sex" alums Liz Tuccillo ("He's Just Not That Into You") and Cindy Chepek in Sarah Jessica Parker's writers room.

Like "Sex and the City," the new series are filled with lust, romance and conflict — though instead of Fifth Avenue, they're set in a fictional Texas town that has just lost its favorite son in a car ac-

cident that resulted from an argument in a church. Half the town thinks that the richest lady in Cedar City, Dorothy Sue Greenwald, pulled the plug on the injured man, while the rest of the population blames Marlene, the head nurse at the hospital that night.

Along the way, we meet rival priests Pastor Thelmers and Pastor Larsen, one of whom is actually Jewish; Gareth Knowles, who is sleeping with several women, but about to marry one of them (who may be his sister); Sheriff Lars Greenwald, who loves his job because he refuses to arrest his mother; Pam Nes-  
whose sudden affinity for marijuana leads to a mishap with a corpse; Edna Mac, who just wants to bury her son and get a free car somehow; and a NYI cameraman named Baz, who just happens to be in town chasing a rumor about a



Joyce Van Patten

Bloomberg mistress. And for an only-in-a-New-York-writer's-mind twist, characters parrot philosopher Friedrich Schlegel, whose theories about conflict escalation apply to nations, cultures and, yes, even residents of Dopecock towns.

If that sounds like a lot to keep straight, don't worry; a draw-slinging narrative provides exposition at key moments. And the cast — which includes Joyce Van Patten, of all people! — is filled with Broadway and TV names who know how to keep the soap tudy.

"Clearly, I grew up watching a lot of 'General Hospital,' so it was fun to get to do a campy, 'Prairie Home Companion' version of that," said Zartsky. "But there's also some very serious stuff about war and conflict in there, too."

The last four episodes of the eight-episode story will be in Brooklyn. Zartsky said she didn't know how it would end, but promised that the conflicts would indeed escalate. "I do know this: there will be blood," she said.

## THEATER

**'Cedar City Falls' — A Mid-West Conflict** at Galapagos Art Space, 16 Main St., at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8202, Nov. 4, 10, 17 and 24, 7 and 9:30 pm. Tickets are \$16 through \$20.



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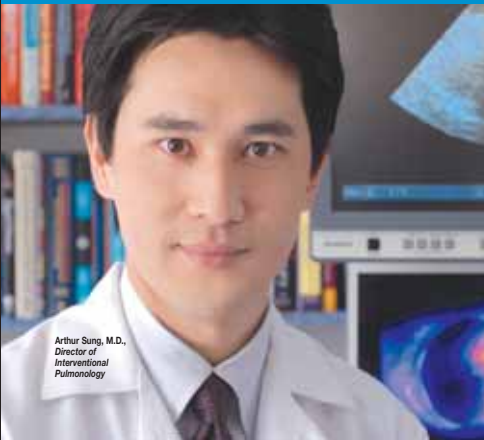


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# 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

**FCM, "THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALLANCE":** Part of BAM's look back at 1962. \$11.6 and 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org)

**HALLOWEEN ART SHOW:** Opening Party! Costume Party. 7 pm. MF Gallery [213 Bond St. in Boerum Hill, (917) 446-8681]. [www.mfgallery.net](http://www.mfgallery.net)

**READING, NEVIN MARTELL:** Author of "Looking for

Calvin and Hobbes: The Unconventional Story of Bill Watterson and His Revolutionary Comic Strip." Free. 7 pm. Unleash: Brooklyn [216 Franklin St. in Greenpoint, (718) 710-0707]. [www.unleashbrooklyn.com](http://www.unleashbrooklyn.com)

**EXHIBITION, "BROOKLYN UTOPIAS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**SUN, OCT. 25**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**FALL OPEN HOUSE:** St. Joseph's College offers tours and a presentation about the school. Noon. St. Joseph's College [245 Clinton Ave. in Clinton Hill, (718) 940-5584].

**PERFORMANCE**  
**MEGA ART SHOW:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.  
**LUNA NEGRA DANCE THEATER:** With the Turtle Island Quartet and Piquito Rivera. \$30. 2 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2000 Campus Rd. at Hill Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500].

**MUSIC, MEREDITH MONK'S "SONGS OF ASCENSION":** 3 pm. See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "TOP OF THE HEAP":** 3 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**CLASSICAL CONCERT:** Works by Copland, Beethoven and Dvorak. \$25. 3 pm. Bargemusic [Fulton Ferry Landing, Old

Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083]. [www.bargemusic.org](http://www.bargemusic.org)

**THEATER, "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE":** See Friday, Oct. 24.  
**THEATER, "BAUHAUS THE BALHAUS":** 7 pm. See Friday, Oct. 24.

**ARGENTINE MUSIC:** Legendary Tango composer Fernando Otero performs. \$12. 7 pm. Galapagos Art Space [14 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500]. [www.galapagosartspace.com](http://www.galapagosartspace.com)

**RELIGIOUS MUSIC:** A benefit for Congregation Kolot Chayenas. \$54. 7 pm. Southpaw [125 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-0238]. [www.kolotchayenas.org](http://www.kolotchayenas.org)



Old school: Kenny Wade Marshall (right) and David Perlman star in "Top of the Heap," a musical set in 1955 Brooklyn about struggling comics trying to ride on the Dodgers' coattails during that magical season.

## SALES AND MARKETS

**PS 321 FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**FULTON FLEA:** Weather permitting. 10 am. Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center [650 Fulton St. near Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. [www.fultonflea.com](http://www.fultonflea.com)

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**FARMERS MARKET:** Free. 11 am-5 pm. J.J. Byrne Park [Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope]

## OTHER

**DISCUSSION, THE ETHICS OF HOPE:** New. Selby will explore the realm of hope. Free. 11 am. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture [53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972]. [www.bsec.org](http://www.bsec.org)

**GREENPOINT OKTOBERFEST:** Beers and brats on the Brooklyn waterfront. 12 pm. Transmitter Park [1 Greenpoint Ave. at West Street in Greenpoint]. [www.meaneatproductions.com](http://www.meaneatproductions.com)

**MEGA ART SHOW:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**READING, ALIX STRAUSS:** Author of "Death Becomes Them: Unearthing the Secrets of the Brilliant, the Famous, and the Notorious." will read. Free. 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 768-7300]. [www.greenwood.com](http://www.greenwood.com)

**FILM, "LAWRENCE OF ARABIA":** Part of BAM's look back at 1962. \$11. 1:30 and 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org)

**DISCUSSION, THE FUTURE OF BROOKLYN:** Curators of the exhibit "Brooklyn Utopias" discuss look ahead. Free. 2 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Fliegelpoint Street in Brook-

lyn Heights, (718) 222-4111]. [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org)

**ART, "TOXIC CITY - BROOKLYN'S BROWNVELDS":** Photography exhibit. 3-6 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-8816]. [www.brooklyn-lyceum.com](http://www.brooklyn-lyceum.com)

**FILM, "THE HIGH COUNTRY":** Part of BAM's look back at 1962. \$11.

**FILM, "PAPER MOON":** Part of the Hungarians in Hollywood retrospective. \$11. 4:50 and 9:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org)

**READING, LIZ ROBBINS:**

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Author of "A Race Like No Other." 7 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-6677]. [www.bookcourt.org](http://www.bookcourt.org)

**PING PONG TOURNAMENT:** Amateurs only. \$5 to play. 7 pm. The Bell Room [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510]. [www.thebellroom.com](http://www.thebellroom.com)

**THEATER, "SCRIPT TEASE":** The Union Hall Drama Club's play-reading series. \$5. 7 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com)

**TUES, OCT. 27**

**BROOKLYN EATS:** Annual gourmet feasting classes of restaurants. \$125. 8 pm. Steiner Studios [15 Washington Ave. in the Brooklyn Navy Yard in Fort Greene, (718) 875-1000]. [www.brooklynchamber.org](http://www.brooklynchamber.org)

**FREE DANCE CLASSES:** Led by Carmine Santa Maria, the Bensonhurst Beller. 6 pm. Community Center at Sixth Ave [58, 99 Avenue P between W. 11th and W. 12th streets in Bensonhurst, (718) 975-0307]

**FILM, "INVISIBLE AGENT":** Part of the Hungarians in Hollywood retrospective. \$11. 6:50 and 9:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org)

**GROWN UPS:** Hosted by David West. Free. 7 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com)

**THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM":** A new play by Enda Walsh and the Druid Ireland company. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779]. [www.stannwarehouse.org](http://www.stannwarehouse.org)

**FIT SINGLES:** A singles meet-and-greet with a fitness theme. \$15 (\$5 off with promo code: "blushmonkey"). 8 pm. Bar Reis [375 Fifth Ave. (347) 878-2212]. [www.blushmonkey.net](http://www.blushmonkey.net)

**WED, OCT. 28**

**AUTO AUCTION:** Monthly city car sale. 8:30 am. Brooklyn Navy Yard [370 Kent Ave. in Williamsburg, (718) 954-0960]. [www.nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/auctions/](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/auctions/)

**BROOKLYN BOUNTY FALL FUNDRAISER:** Music, cocktails and delicious local food from the best Brooklyn purveyors. 6:30-9:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Fliegelpoint St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111]. [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org)

**FREE WINE:** A weekly wine-tasting event featuring complimentary "wine flights." 7 pm. Enoteca on Court [347 Court St. in Carroll Gardens, (718) 243-0001]

**READING, TONY FLETCHER:** Author of "All Hopped Up and Ready to Go: Music from the Streets of New York 1927-77." 7:30 pm. Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096]. [wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com](http://wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com)

**EXHIBITION, "BROOKLYN UTOPIAS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM":** See Tuesday, Oct. 27.

**THURS, OCT. 29**

**FREE DANCE CLASSES:** See Tuesday, Oct. 27.

**MUSIC IN THE STREETS:** The Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District sponsors live music on just about every corner from Dean to 18th streets. Free. 6:30 pm. Fifth Avenue [200 Fifth Ave. between Dean and 18th streets in Park Slope, (718) 637-1955].

**TRAVEL WRITING NIGHT:** Featuring Rough Guide writers. 7:30 pm. Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096]. [wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com](http://wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com)

**EXHIBITION, "BROOKLYN UTOPIAS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "HAMLET":** Sanaz Ghajapour's twisted musical interpretation. \$15. 10 pm. Galapagos Art Space [14 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500]. [www.galapagosartspace.com](http://www.galapagosartspace.com)

**FRI, OCT. 30**

**MUSIC, VLADAPALOZA 4:** Bloody Murfs, Box of Crayons and more. Free. 8 pm. Backroom [485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035]. [www.fredsbbackroom.com](http://www.fredsbbackroom.com)

**TAROT-A-PALOZA:** Get your cards read at this pre-Halloween tarot reading marathon! Price varies by reader. 6-11 pm. Kirs Waldner Art and Words [1501 Newkirk Ave. at Marlborough Road in Chinatown, (347) 406-5811]. [kirsvaldner.com/blog/events/exhibitions](http://kirsvaldner.com/blog/events/exhibitions)

**MUSIC, THE MANHATTAN VALLEY RAMBLERS:** Country music at its urban best. \$10. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture [53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972]. [www.gchmusic.org](http://www.gchmusic.org)

**MUSIC, FOUR BANDS:** Palomar, Good Cremo, Overboard and Atlantic Pacific perform. \$8. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com)

**EXHIBITION, "BROOKLYN UTOPIAS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "BAUHAUS THE BAUHAUS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "TOP OF THE HEAP":** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**THEATER, "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM":** See Tuesday, Oct. 27.

**THEATER, "HAMLET":** See Tuesday, Oct. 27.

**THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM":** See Tuesday, Oct. 27.

**THEATER, "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "BAUHAUS THE BAUHAUS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "TOP OF THE HEAP":** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**THEATER, "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "BAUHAUS THE BAUHAUS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "TOP OF THE HEAP":** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**THEATER, "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "BAUHAUS THE BAUHAUS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "TOP OF THE HEAP":** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**THEATER, "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

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## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

**THE BRIDGE:** See Friday, Oct. 23.  
**THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM":** See Tuesday, Oct. 27.  
**MUSIC, ONE WORLD SYMPHONY HALLOWEEN BASH CONCERT:** A benefit program, 8 pm, St. Ann's Church (152 Montague Street at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-1411).  
**THEATER, TRIO AND MONKEY'S PARTY SHOW:** Burlesque legends present the first installment of a new monthly show, 8:30-10 pm, Galapagos Art Space (116 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500), www.galapagosartspace.com.

### SAT, OCT. 31

Halloween

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**BIKE IT:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**PERFORMANCE**

**THEATER, "TOP OF THE HEAP":** 2 pm and 8 pm, See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM":** 2 pm, See Tuesday, Oct. 27.

**THEATER, "BAUHAUS THE BAUHAUS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

**THEATER, "LOVERS AND OTHER STRANGERS":** A 1960s comedy directed by Karen Fiolella, 518, 8 pm, Bay Ridge Jewish Center (81st Street and 4th Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-3100).

**NIGHTLIFE, TIM FITZ'S HALLOWEEN PARTY:** The annual event, 12-8 pm, Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400), www.unionhall.com.

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**PS 321 FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** See Saturday, Oct. 24.

**OTHER**

**OKTOBERFEST:** Music, BBQ and more, Free, 2-6 pm, Sycamore (1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminter roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850), www.sycamorebrooklyn.com.

**HALLOWEEN PARADE:** The annual kids costume parade through Park Slope, 6:30 pm, Starts at Seventh Avenue and 14th, turns left at Third Street and heads to Fifth Avenue. For info, call (917) 978-7160.

**FILM, "PHANTOM OF THE OPERA":** Silent film with live organ accompaniment, 7 pm, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene).

**EXHIBITION, "BROOKLYN UTOPIAS":** See Friday, Oct. 23.

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# OCTOBER 2009 | OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>18</b>  <b>MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST</b> 9am-11am	<b>19</b> <b>SPA SERVICES</b> Medical Massage w/ Greg Hints 8am-10am  <b>PARTNER YOGA</b> w/ Lalita & Leah 7:30pm-8:30pm	<b>20</b> <b>ONE-ON-ONE PILATES REFORMER</b> w/ Mariel Auerbach 10:30am-12pm  <b>SMALL GROUP TRAINING</b> PT session Sign up at the front desk 9am-10am 7pm-8pm	<b>21</b> <b>SPA SERVICES</b> Hand & Foot Massages 8am-10am  <b>AFRICAN ACCUMULATION</b> Dance Class w/ Lauren 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>22</b> <b>SPA SERVICES</b> Hand & Foot w/ Christian 8am-10am  <b>ONE-ON-ONE PILATES REFORMER</b> w/ Meagan Krauser 4pm-6pm	<b>23</b> <b>SMALL GROUP TRAINING</b> Free Boxing Clinic w/ Kevin Cruz Sign up at the front desk 6:30am-8:30am  <b>BLOOD PRESSURE BODY FAT TESTING</b> 6am-4pm	<b>24</b> <b>RX STRETCH</b> 15 Minute Evaluations w/ Diane Curry 10:30am-11:30am  <b>SPA SERVICES</b> 15 Minute Medical Massage w/ Greg Hints 8am-10am
<b>25</b>  <b>HARDBODY KICKBOXING</b> w/ Javier 11:30am-12:30pm	<b>26</b>  <b>POWER YOGA</b> w/ Lalita 8am-9am  <b>ONE-ON-ONE PILATES REFORMER</b> w/ Meagan Krauser 10:30am-12pm	<b>27</b> <b>PRE- &amp; POST-NATAL CLINIC</b> w/ Mariel Auerbach 11:30am-12:30pm  <b>ABS, BUNS &amp; THIGHS CLINIC</b> w/ Lois Martinez 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>28</b> <b>QUESTION/ANSWER</b> w/ Nutritionist Kimberly Russell 6:30pm-7:30pm  <b>PROPER WEIGHT LIFTING TECHNIQUES</b> w/ Travis 7pm-8pm	<b>29</b> <b>ONE-ON-ONE PILATES REFORMER</b> w/ Mariel Auerbach 10:30am-12pm  <b>SMALL GROUP TRAINING</b> PT session Sign up at the front desk 10am-11am 8pm-9pm	<b>30</b> <b>DHARMA GROOVE</b> Yoga Dance Party w/ Karen Go 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>31</b>  <b>BALLET BODY</b> Group Fitness w/ Lauren 9am-10am



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## OUR OPINION

## Keep Bruce on the hook

It's just nine little words buried deep in an appendix to a document drafted after a renegotiation, but this week's revelation that state officials have tinkered with the language of their deal with Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner are a shocking reminder that our trusted public servants forget that they work for us.

The nine words in the Sept. 17 Empire State Development Corporation staff memo defy all previous agreements made between Ratner and the state about the developer's requirement to include a sizeable number of below-market-rate units in the mega-project.

Previously, those units were an ironclad promise. Now, according to the new language, the affordable housing is merely "subject to government authorities making available... affordable housing subsidies."

Make no mistake: Ratner has always said that he would build the 2,250 rental units with the help of taxpayers, who pay for those housing subsidies as part

**This week provided another reminder that our public servants forget that they work for us.**

of a larger goal of keeping the city affordable and its neighborhoods comprised of families of mixed incomes.

But in prior agreements, the language merely said that the developer "expected" to receive the subsidies to build the affordable housing. They never made the housing "subject to" receiving the subsidies.

Of course, we are confident that a developer of Ratner's reputation will make good on his prior promises to build the affordable units, which gave the project virtually all of its political support.

Yet we are concerned because officials have failed — at every turn — to oversee a fair process so that the resulting mega-development meets the needs of the community. For example:

• When the development rights to the Atlantic Yards site were appraised at

\$217 million, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority gave it to Ratner for \$100 million — despite a competing bid of \$150 million.

• When the developer was short on cash, the MTA let him pay that \$100 million over 22 years and allowed him to reduce his required rail yard improvements.

• When the developer promised Brooklyn's Frank Gehry-designed mini-city, state officials stood mute as Ratner fired Gehry and brought in a bunch of Midwesterners.

• When the developer said he needed the state to condemn some buildings in the Atlantic Yards footprint, the state started up the bulldozers instead of making a fair assessment of what lots are truly blighted and which ones are not. And it, indeed, all of the Atlantic Yards site is blighted, why is the state now allowing Ratner to take 22 years — until 2031 — to finish the project?

In each instance, if state officials had been better watchdogs, the resulting project would have been much better.

## ALL DRAWN OUT

The most expensive apartment in Brooklyn history goes on sale...NOW!

GO! *[The text is repeated in a stylized, overlapping manner, mimicking a comic book sound effect.]*

*[A speech bubble from a character says:]* GEE...PERHAPS \$25 MILLION IS A LAD PROPER FOR AN APARTMENT, RIGHT NOW...

*[Another speech bubble says:]* BROWN! WIFE ALL THOSE CLOCKS FOR WINDS... I'M SURE THEY HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD TO SEAL IT.

October 23, 2009

## LETTERS

## Candidate hates our coverage

To the editor,

Your Politicrasher column last week ("Walk on the mild side," Oct. 16) called me a "bad Republican" after inviting you to see another aspect of what should shatter the mold of anyone in the GOP forever. I'd risk saying that I may be the one of the very best you'd ever met.

The column seemed intent on breaking down all that my candidacy offers to simply my position on same-sex marriage. As a result, I offer this direct and clear response. Please let your readers know where I stand. I don't differentiate between people, don't label nor disregard anyone's perspectives.

I will fight for the middle class and our residents, and pro-

tect and champion our areas on many fronts — from excessive taxes, new fees proposed and supported by our local Democrats like paying for parking on our very streets (free for 100 years), and excessive costs at every turn (from electricity, auto insurance) — but I also believe that it doesn't matter to me who the people are, and what their lifestyles.

For clarification, I'm running to help lead our areas and I'm not an ideologue and not anyone's idea of a neo-Conservative. My perspective on Republicanism is of a "back to basics" approach to focusing on individualism, fiscal responsibility of course, but the state's role in helping social causes (meaning our people, at every turn).

Of course, there's merits on "civil rights," and I greatly appreciate the need for protections under law for lifelong commitments and loving relationships and families that don't need to adhere to textbook definition.

Same-sex couples need equal rights for what confronts married couples, especially across health care and property/probate issues. But respect institutions and people's belief systems as well, which is why the debate on the statewide level is so important, as it reflects

on what's perceived as the rights of maintaining beliefs.

This law has been enacted in Massachusetts and Iowa — without addressing how worship will be affected. But as an elected official, I would have to address and relay and respond to those concerns. That may have frustrated your columnist in response to the "all or none" question, but it's sincerely an attempt to ring a true explanation for how a Roman Catholic candidate can justify his communities' strong feelings (in the Food Co-op, and across all aspects of my life) and support people's civil rights.

Is an independent Republican a "bad Republican"?

I'm the anti-politician, that's going to great lengths of self-sacrifice to battle "politics as usual," power-broking and a one-party system.

The only way to break through this is to have someone like me shatter conventional thought. My background is not self-sacrifice, community concern and doing the right thing for my neighbors.

I'm a "good Republican."

**Joe Nardella,  
Carroll Gardens**  
The writer is the Republican candidate for the 39th City Council District.

## Vito power

To the editor,

I couldn't help but be disgusted by your article about Brooklyn Democratic Party chairman Vito Lopez and Borough President Markowitz's betrayal of their party to back non-party candidates in the upcoming election ("Dems betrayed" Bro's top donkeys are Party posers," Oct. 9).

Of course, Markowitz has endorsed Bloomberg before — and I do appreciate that politicians think independently and don't always follow the party line.

But in Lopez's case, the chairman simply has no excuse. In the primary, he was well within his rights to back Maritza Davila over incumbent Diana Reyna, but when Democratic voters chose Reyna, Lopez decided to bolt his own party and back Davila on the Working Families Party line.

That's where I draw the line: If someone is lead our county party organization, he needs to command the respect of Democratic voters in this most Democratic of counties. And that means respecting the will of the majority of voters who picked Reyna over Davila.

**Mort Tefler, Bay Ridge**

## WEB CHATTER

## Readers talk B'way Triangle

Our online coverage of the latest approval for the city's Broadway Triangle rezoning ("Boss-backed Broadway Triangle rezoning advances," Oct. 20) unleashed a flood of comments on our Web site. Here's a fair summary.

**Controversial? Really?** Over two-thirds of the community board voted in favor. The borough president supported it. City Planning supported it. The Councilman supports it. It is an excellent plan. If it weren't election year, I doubt there would be any opposition at all.

**Resident, Williamsburg**

As a member in Community Board 1, I am very shocked and disappointed at what is happening. This is the most brazen act of subversion of justice in the history of Williamsburg.

What we are seeing is a total lack of morality. Why no transparency? Give a chance for the other side also. Assemblyman Vito Lo-pet, I am ashamed that you represent me.

**Sam Jacoby, Williamsburg**

This is great news for families struggling for survival in Williamsburg. Finally, we will have some affordable housing. Thanks to all the commissioners who voted yes.

**Burger, Williamsburg**

The Ridgewood-Bushwick seniors are getting the project only because of Vito's support. He's literally in bed with the developer. How on earth is this an excellent plan? The affordability component falls short. Plus, it falls short of dealing with the elephant in the room, the abandoned 11-story plan.

In fact, it's not a plan at all. It's a typical Bloomberg spot rezoning without stepping back

and looking at the larger context.

**Scott, Flatbush**

If you think that these 41 groups are a majority, just take a look at the numbers of the recent City Council primary. In the 33rd District, Steve Levin was the candidate fighting for the Broadway Triangle rezoning, and he won with big margins. See the numbers below: Isaac Abraham, 1,979 votes; Ken Deen, 790; Doug Biviano, 1,157; Ken Diamondstone, 1,237; Levin, 5,344; Jo Anne Simon, 3,226; Evan Thies, 2,028.

**Jason, Bushwick**

Jason, Perhaps you should add up the vote totals for all the other candidates. Levin was the only one who supported the Broadway Triangle debate, and he only got 5,344 votes out of more than 15,000 cast.

I'd say that speaks volume about the lack of support for the Broadway Triangle rezoning and Levin's patron, Vito Lopez.

**Jerry, Greenpoint**

Deals, political pressure, exclusion, no-bid contracts. Calling that "process" trivializes it. Would you say that what Tammany Hall did was just "process"?

I can't argue that it's better or worse than the opponents plan — there are pros and cons — but it's still appalling. It's also deceptive to say that Steve Levin's win was due to community support for the project. Levin's numbers included several thousand votes from members of the United Jewish Organizations, which is one of the beneficiaries of the no-bid contracts. That's not a community mandate, but simply the backing of a self-interested boss.

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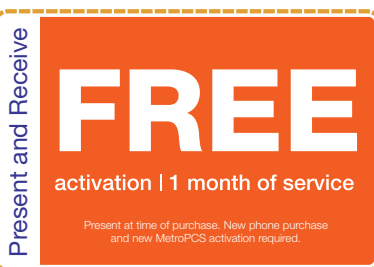
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